

REMARKS

Priority:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim to foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d). The Examiner has stated that Applicant has not filed a certified copy of the priority document as required by 35 U.S.C. § 119(b). However, Applicant would like to point out that in the "Notification of Acceptance of Application under 35 U.S.C. § 371 and 37 C.F.R. 1.494 or 1.495", dated June 1, 2000, the USPTO has acknowledged receipt of a copy of the certified copy of the priority document, which is all that is required. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests correction by the next official action.

Drawings:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for returning the form PTO-948, and Applicant submits that formal corrected drawings are presently being prepared and will be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee in the present case.

I.D.S.:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for initialing all of the references on the Form PTO-1449, indicating that these references have been considered.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 1-10 are all the claims that have been examined in the application. Presently all of the claims stand rejected. However, the Examiner has indicated that claims 2-10 would be allowable if written in independent form, and amended to address the 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, rejection set forth below.

35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph Rejection – Claims 1-10:

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as his invention. Applicant has amended the claims as shown in the attached Appendix, to address this rejection, and hereby submits that these claims are now in condition for allowance. It is noted that the amendments made to the claims have only been made to address the above rejection and are not intended to narrow the scope or spirit of the original claims in any way.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection – Claim 1:

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,041,009 to McCleerey. In view of the amendments made to the claims, as set forth in the attached Appendix, Applicant submits that this rejection is now moot.

In the Office Action dated November 29, 2000, the Examiner indicated that claims 2-10 would be allowable if written in independent form. In the present amendment, claim 1 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claim 2, thus effectively making claim 2 claim 1. Further, claims 3, 8 and 10 have been rewritten as independent claims, without narrowing the original claims in any way. As the Examiner has indicated, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 3-10 are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion:

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

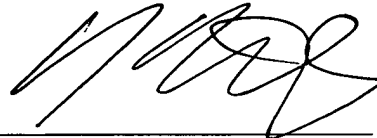
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/508,962

Our Ref.: Q58256
Art Unit: 2833

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 2 is canceled.

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A low-current outlet comprising:

an outlet base [(2)] provided with contact pins [(25)] to which a plug can be connected;
and

a rear cap [(1)] that can be mounted on the rear of the outlet base [(2)], which cap [(1)], on being fixed to the base, establishes the electrical contact between [the] conductor wires [(31, 32)] of a connection cable [(3)] and the contact pins [(25)] of the base [(2)], the cap [(1)] being provided with wire-pair guides [(11, 12)] making it possible to position the [pairs of] wires [(31, 32) in three dimensions] so that they are connected electrically to the contact pins [(25)] on fixing the cap [(1)] to the base [(2)];

[said low-current outlet being characterized in that each wire-pair guide makes an angle such as to form an edge (13) on which the respective wire forms a locking fold.]

wherein each wire guide serves to guide one pair of wires, said guides being disposed in a polygonal geometrical configuration.

3. (Amended) A low-current outlet [according to claim 1,] comprising:

an outlet base provided with contact pins to which a plug can be connected; and

a rear cap that can be mounted on the rear of the outlet base, which cap, on being fixed to the base, establishes the electrical contact between conductor wires of a connection cable and the contact pins of the base, the cap being provided with wire-pair guides making it possible to position the wires so that they are connected electrically to the contact pins on fixing the cap to the base;

wherein [in which] each wire-pair guide comprises a common guide duct [(11)] that is common to the [pair of] wires [(31, 32)], and two locking channels [(12)] for respective ones of the wires of the pair.

4. (Amended) A low-current outlet according to claim 3, in which the common guide ducts [(11)] extend substantially along said plug-in axis by passing through the cap, and the locking channels [(12)] extend substantially perpendicularly to said plug-in axis over the front of the cap, while being open over their lengths.

5. (Twice Amended) A low-current outlet according to claim 3, in which the common guide duct [(11)] and each of the two locking channels [(12)] make an angle such as to form [the] an edge [(13)] on which the respective wires form locking folds.

6. (Twice Amended) A low-current outlet according to claim 3, in which the locking channels [(12)] are provided with retaining means [(120)] such as lugs for holding the locked wires [(31, 32)] in their respective channels [(12)].

7. (Twice Amended) A low-current outlet according to claim 3, in which the common guide ducts [(11)] are open laterally so as to enable the pairs of wires [(31, 32)] to be inserted laterally into them.

8. (Twice Amended) A low-current outlet [according to claim 1,] comprising:
an outlet base provided with contact pins to which a plug can be connected; and
a rear cap that can be mounted on the rear of the outlet base, which cap, on being fixed to the base, establishes the electrical contact between conductor wires of a connection cable and the contact pins of the base, the cap being provided with wire-pair guides making it possible to position the wires so that they are connected electrically to the contact pins on fixing the cap to the base;

wherein [in which] the wire guides [(11, 12)] are isolated electromagnetically from one another by a cross-shaped screening device [(24)] which extends beyond the electrical contact between the wires and the outlet base.

9. (Twice Amended) A low-current outlet according to claim 3, in which the base [(2)] is provided with insulation-displacement contacts [(21)] connected electrically to the contact pins [(25)], each locking channel [(12)] is provided with a through housing [(14)] enabling the insulation-displacement contact [(25)] to be inserted transversely to the wires [(31, 32)] locked in their respective channels [(12)].

10. (Twice Amended) A low-current outlet [according to claim 1,] comprising:
an outlet base provided with contact pins to which a plug can be connected; and
a rear cap that can be mounted on the rear of the outlet base, which cap, on being fixed to
the base, establishes the electrical contact between conductor wires of a connection cable and the
contact pins of the base, the cap being provided with wire-pair guides making it possible to
position the wires so that they are connected electrically to the contact pins on fixing the cap to
the base;

wherein [in which] the cap [(1)] is provided with a drain wire guide [(15)] that enables
the drain wire to be grounded on fixing the cap [(1)] to the base [(2)].